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SCIENCE

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FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

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THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICA TO GEOLOGY¹

IN speaking of the contributions of America to geology, I do not propose to give an inventory of the geological facts which have been made known as the result of work in this country. An area of three million square miles has been covered by geological reconnoissance, and much of that area has been surveyed in detail. It is, moreover, an area interesting in many respects. It is a country of vast mineral wealth, leading the world in the production of coal, petroleum, salt, iron, copper, silver and lead, and ranking with Australia and South Africa as one of the three great gold-producing regions of the world. It is a country presenting a remarkable variety of topography and geological structure; and some of its scenic features can be adequately described only in superlatives. It includes vast prairies of great fertility; the Missouri-Mississippi river system, with thousands of miles of navigable waters; the broad and complex mountain mass of the Cordillera; the Great Lakes of the Canadian border, a chain of fresh-water seas; the sublime cataract of Niagara; the remarkable region of interior drainage of the Great Basin; the geysers of the Yellowstone; the cañon system of the Colorado and its tributaries, unparal-

¹ Address of the vice-president and chairman of Section E—Geology and Geography, American Association for the Advancement of Science, New York meeting, December, 1906.